



## ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fire ■ Emergency Medical Services ■ Parks & Recreation

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### NEWS RELEASE

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## NEW PROGRAM "PUTS A FINGER" ON FIRE SAFETY

### ELK GROVE FIRE OFFICIALS LAUNCH SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM TO PREVENT FIRE DEATHS IN

### TEMPORARY, FARM AND LOW-INCOME HOUSING

**Elk Grove, CA** – Winter has arrived in Sacramento County. As the temperatures drop, those living within trailers, mobile homes, and other types of tenement structures are expected to use space heaters or resort to other unconventional heating devices to keep warm. On the heels of three fire deaths last Winter – all involving temporary housing -- the Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department launched a new fire prevention program today called "Put a Finger on Fire Safety" aimed at protecting lives by providing free smoke detectors to those residing in such dwellings.

"The message to be fire safe around the holidays is important, but for those living in temporary housing, there may be no trees or decorations. Staying warm when the temperature dips down in the 30s and 40s is their primary concern. How they do that is our biggest fear," stated Elk Grove Fire Marshal Steve Foster. "Making sure that their living space is equipped with the most basic means of life safety – a smoke detector – is our goal under this program."

The Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department and the Wilton Fire Protection District have teamed up with Lowe's and Target stores of Elk Grove to implement

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the “Put A Finger on Fire Safety” program. Sponsoring retailers have donated 400 smoke alarms and batteries to equip temporary housing units in Elk Grove and Wilton with basic fire protection. The Sacramento County Farm Bureau has also partnered with the Department to help implement the program in rural and farm housing units.

In addition to smoke alarms, the program will feature safety brochures and posters in English and Spanish stressing the proper installation and maintenance of home smoke alarms. As the program develops, Elk Grove fire officials expect to merge the program with the “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery” battery distribution program offered each Fall within the District’s urban areas.

Residents in the Elk Grove or Wilton area may call the Elk Grove CSD Fire Department at (916) 685-9502 to request a smoke alarm or to refer the Department to someone who may need one.

Elk Grove CSD fire officials remind everyone to test their smoke alarms monthly by “putting a finger” on the red test button.

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